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together with no idea of the inter-relations of the different subjects. The author's bent of mind has naturally led him to devote to the military administration what to the average American reader would seem a disproportionate space. The same criticism may be made of the chapter on justice, in which too much space is given to questions of civil and criminal procedure for a book on administrative law. Again, the aim of the author has been the collection of details and the enumeration of facts rather than the statement of general principles. Nowhere outside of the preface, which is the most interesting part of the book, does M. Morhain seem to seize the general characteristics of German federal government and administration. There, however, its exact position and tendencies are accurately set forth.

Imperial legislation [he says] has spread a vast net over Germany, in the meshes of which the single states move; but each day the meshes are being drawn closer together and limit more and more the individual movement of the German local sovereignties. . . . Their autonomy is being gradually reduced to matters relating to local police, public charity, and the administration of highways; in a word, to purely local matters.

This development was well expressed by Treitschke when he spoke of Germany as a *werdender Einheitstaat*.

It is remarkable that this first attempt of a Frenchman to examine carefully the institutions of his neighbors "au dela du Rhin," should be so full of details and facts and so wanting in generalizations. For it has often been said that Frenchmen deduced principles from details collected by the researches of Germans. But the fault is not a bad one in this case, as the book is intended for the student rather than the general reader and offers a mass of valuable material hitherto inaccessible to the majority of our students.

FRANK J. GOODNOW.

*American Statute Law.* An analytical and compared Digest of the Constitutions and Civil Public Statutes of all the States and Territories relating to Persons and Property in force January 1, 1886. By FREDERIC J. STIMSON. Boston, Charles C. Soule, 1886. — Lex. 8vo, xl, 779 pp.

Mr. Stimson has rendered a great service both to practising lawyers and to students of our legal and political development. He deserves from both classes the warmer gratitude because his digest represents so much labor of a tedious and ungrateful kind.

He tells us in his preface that the statutes of the states and territories, in their latest revisions, fill 235 octavo volumes, and that to embody their

provisions, "or even any considerable portion of them, in one or two volumes of manageable size, seemed at the first sight a hopeless undertaking." But he does not attempt to codify all the statutory law. At least half of the law in each state is omitted as of purely local interest. Nor does he undertake to collate the criminal statutes, nor those regulating the details of procedure. And on examination he finds that the residue of our public and private law is less heterogeneous than might have been expected. The legislations of our states and territories fall into a limited number of groups, one or more states in each group furnishing the models upon which the laws of the others are framed. In many cases, therefore, common rules prevail in the entire group. By confining the digest for the present to constitutional and private law, and by stating common rules once for all states enacting them, the author has been able to reduce a great part of our statute law to the compass of a single volume about one-third the size of Webster's unabridged dictionary.

The arrangement adopted is a good one. The law is classified, in the main, according to the character of the relations which it governs. Public law is separated from private, and in the latter we find the four great natural groups of real and personal property, family relations, and succession or inheritance. It seems to me, however, a matter for regret that this natural division is to a certain extent obscured by the peculiar terminology borrowed from Holland. I do not believe that jurists generally will ever acquiesce in a nomenclature which stamps the law of real property and of inheritance as "normal" and that of the family as "abnormal."

Again, it may be noticed that the fundamental distinction of public and private law is not carried out in all the details of the present volume. The author's Constitutional Law is simply the law of the constitutions. It does not contain all the provisions which relate to the organization of our commonwealth governments; those which rest upon ordinary statutes must be sought elsewhere. On the other hand, his Constitutional Law contains many provisions of administrative law, parliamentary procedure, and private law, *viz.*, all that are in the state constitutions, and our state constitutions are notoriously full of such provisions. For studying the tendencies of American law, there is a certain advantage in finding all these provisions in one place; the student is able to follow more easily the peculiar lines of development which the law of our constitutions is taking. But for the practising lawyer it would seem more convenient to find all the provisions which govern a special legal relation in one place. It would be easy to adopt a notation by which the rules contained in the constitutions could be distinguished from those contained in single statutes or in codes.

The principal value of such a work as this, of course, depends upon its accuracy, and the accuracy of such a work can be determined only by actual use. One point suggests itself immediately. The author has been obliged, in carrying out his plan, to "recast" the provisions of the various laws in his own words. Any such recasting, however slight, is obviously of the nature of construction or interpretation, and the interpretation of law by a private person, however accurate it may be, is not authoritative. The careful lawyer, engaged in an important case, will, of course, be obliged to go back to the original statutes; but this necessity will not lessen the value of Mr. Stimson's digest as an index.

MUNROE SMITH.

*Lectures on International Law in Time of Peace.* By JOHN NORTON POMEROY. Edited by Theodore S. Woolsey, Professor of International Law in the Yale Law School. Boston, Houghton, Mifflin, & Co., 1886. — xvi, 480 pp.

*An Introduction to the Constitutional Law of the United States.* By JOHN NORTON POMEROY. Ninth edition, revised and enlarged by Edmund H. Bennett, LL.D., Dean of the Boston University Law School. Boston, Houghton, Mifflin, & Co., 1886. — xxxviii, 708 pp.

There is a strong tendency prevalent in America to-day to "make" law-books. In place of one great treatise by Kent, or two by Story, we find certain authors producing works on legal subjects at a rate that must frighten those who are obliged to rely upon them as authorities. One writer gives us seven volumes in as many years and upon as many different subjects; another writes upon "Mortgages" and "Real Property," and immediately branches off into the "Law of Corporations." Treatises thus produced must be little more than collections of cases, or digests.

It is needless to say that Professor Pomeroy's works do not belong to this class of law-books. Originally delivered as lectures to classes in two law schools, the *International Law* is a concise, direct, and admirably stated *résumé* of the rules in force at the time of their delivery; supplemented at almost every page by the views of a clear and advanced thinker, as well upon what was, as upon what ought to be, the condition of the rules governing the intercourse between nations. These views, as Professor Woolsey well says in his preface, were sufficiently far in advance of the time in which they were formed to be of value to-day not only as authority, but also, in some cases, as a guide to the future.

The *Constitutional Law* seems to be more tinged with the feeling of the time in which it was written than the other work. Professor Pom-